Generating Message and Text Files

You can create messages as text files in any environment outside Natural and convert them into message files to be maintained with SYSERR. Message files are created and maintained with the import and export functions of the SYSERR utility. The message files must be stored with the file extension .MSG in the Natural Err directories.

[WIN:

The message files are stored in the following Natural directories:

    Natural\NATAPPS\FUSER *library ID*\Err
    Natural*Natural version*\FNAT *library ID*\Err
    Natural *Natural version*\Err

:WIN]

User-defined message files are stored in the subdirectory Err of the library in the FNAT or FUSER system file from which the application is executed, the steplib, or the library SYSTEM.

For Natural system messages, the message files must be stored in the subdirectory Err in the Natural root directory. Natural system messages are stored in eight message files.

The section below contains information on:

- Creating a Text File
- Generating a Message File
- Recreating a Text File

Creating a Text File

For Natural system or user-defined messages, the import function of SYSERR generates a message file from one text file.

To create such a text file, you must use a specific layout, as shown in the following example:

Example:

```
NAT
0010
0100
0010E NO MESSAGE TEXT DEFINED!
0020E MISSING/INVALID SYNTAX; UNDEFINED VARIABLE-NAME.
0025E ERROR IN ENTRY FOR NUMBER OF RECORDS TO BE PROCESSED.
0050E INCORRECT FIELD SPECIFICATION IN 'WHERE' CLAUSE.
#PLEASE CHECK PROGRAM
#FOR ERRORS
0100E FUNCTION NOT AVAILABLE.
```

Explanation:

NAT	The prefix of the message number to be displayed with the message: NAT (for Natural system messages) or library ID (for user-defined messages).
0010	Four-digit starting number of the range of messages.
0100	Four-digit ending number of the range of messages. All message numbers that are defined in this text file must be within this range.
0010E	NO MESSAGE TEXT DEFINED. This is the short message for message number 0010. The **E** is mandatory and means "error". This message will be issued with the following Natural statement: `  REINPUT *0010` Explanatory long messages must be placed immediately below this short message; each of these additional lines must start with a hash/number (#) sign. Up to 20 additional lines of long message text are allowed for each short message.

Generating a Message File

With the SYSERR utility, you can generate a message file from a text file.

For user-defined messages, one output message file can be created in one language for each library. Each message file must be stored in the Err subdirectory of that library.

Naming Conventions

For user-defined messages, the name of the message file must be:

  N*nn*APMSL.MSG

where *nn* is the language code (01 - 60), for example 01 for English.

For Natural system messages, the name of the message file must be:

  N*nn*L*mmmm*.MSG

where *nn* is the language code to be used and *mmmm* the starting number of the message range.
The ranges of message numbers are fixed, as defined during Natural system installation, for example:

  N01L0000   Messages 1 - 1999

  N01L2000   Messages 2000 - 2999

[UX:

▶ To generate a message file

1. Enter the IMPORT command of the SYSERR utility.
    The dialog box Import Text File to Message File is displayed.
2. In the From input field, specify the name of the input text file from which all information is to be read.
    The full path name of the file must be specified.
    In the To input fields, specify the language and the library of the output message file to be generated.

:UX] [WIN:

▶ To generate a message file

-   See the Import Text File function of the Options menu described in the section SYSERR Window and Functions.

:WIN]

Recreating a Text File

With the SYSERR utility, you can also recreate a text file for message text maintenance. This is done by reconverting a messages file into a text file.

[UX:

▶ To recreate a message text file

- Enter the EXPORT command of the SYSERR Utility.
  The dialog box Export Text File from Message File is displayed.
- In the From input fields, specify the language and the library of the message(s) to be used as input.
  In the To input field, specify the name of the text file to be created.

  The text file created will have the same format as an input text file.

:UX] [WIN:

▶ To recreate a message file

- See the Export Message File function of the Options menu described in the section SYSERR Window and Functions.

:WIN]